



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/506,675	09/17/2004	Jeannot Hironimus	258372US6PCT	7095

22850 7590 09/20/2005

OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.  
1940 DUKE STREET  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER
----------

KOVACS, ARPAD F

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3671

DATE MAILED: 09/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



DETAILED ACTION

*Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 29-30, 33-48, 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Smith (5297378).

Prior art discloses:

cl. 29:

a carrying vehicle (10), plural working units (36);

at least two front work units (fig 1, 2, ref 36);

at least two lateral work units (fig 1, 2, ref 36);

work units configured to be moved (as described in detailed description ¶ 3);

cl. 30:

the lateral work units are rearward from the front (fig 1, 2);

cl. 33:

articulation is in the direction of travel (fig 1, 2);

Art Unit: 3671

cl. 34:

in work position the units are arranged at least in a substantially horizontally & in transport in vertically;

cl. 35:

front hitching structure (28);

cl. 36:

front hitching device (40, 42);

cl. 37-41:

one of the work units, the lateral, is connected in a sliding, transverse to the direction of travel, manner (along rail 60);

cl. 42-43:

a rear hitching device (44);

cl. 44-45:

comprising two front work units (fig 1, 2, noted, "comprising" does not exclude prior art having three work units) and two lateral;

Art Unit: 3671

cl. 46:

a control device (44, 40);

cl. 47-48, 52:

conveying device (it is noted that the reel mowers also convey cut product).

*Allowable Subject Matter*

3. Claims 31-32, 49-51, 53-57 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

*Conclusion*

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Bednar et al., Nunes, Jr. Et al, Reimers et al., Reimers et al ('084).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Árpád Fábián Kovács whose telephone number is 571 272 6990. The examiner can normally be reached on Mo-Th.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas B. Will can be reached on 571 272 6998. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Árpád Fábián Kovács  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3671

ÁFK